

INTRODUCTION OF "JAKE'S LAW"—THE JUSTICE THROUGH ASSURED KNOWLEDGE AND ENFORCEMENT (JAKE) ACT OF 2000

### HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a little boy who, five months ago this Saturday, was tragically lost to his family. On February 22nd of this year, in Independence, Missouri, six year old Jake Robel was sitting in his mother's car when it was stolen. Jake got caught in the seat belt attempting to flee the car and was dragged to his death at speeds up to 80 miles per hour. The man accused of this horrific act had been released from jail that day, even though he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. This senseless tragedy could have been avoided had a background check been made prior to the suspect's release from jail. In Jake's memory, I will introduce the Justice through Assured Knowledge and Enforcement Act of 2000, or "Jake's Law", which will require a comprehensive warrant check prior to release of prisoners.

The Greater Kansas City community has rallied around this effort. Concerned parents and citizens have joined together to urge that Jake's Law become a reality. In addition to the over one million signatures they have collected on petitions, they have also held town meetings, which my staff and I have attended, to make their concerns known. I am introducing this legislation today in order to make sure their voices are heard, and Jake is remembered.

Jake's Law will establish a nationwide prerelease records check system so that local law enforcement agencies will have immediate access to prisoners' records in jurisdictions throughout the United States. All law enforcement agencies will be required to integrate this mandatory warrant check into their standard prerelease procedure. Jake's Law does not federalize any crime or infringe upon state's rights. It simply ensures the cooperation and communication needed to safeguard people from individuals who should remain imprisoned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to support this common sense legislation, and prevent another tragedy like Jake Robel.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 421 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 422 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

During rollcall vote number 423 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 424 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 425 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 426 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

During rollcall vote number 427 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

During rollcall vote number 428 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

SAN DIEGO'S NO. 1 PICK IN BASEBALL DRAFT: ADRIAN GONZALES

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man who last month graduated from Eastlake High School in my congressional district and who has attained the highest success in his field—the baseball field. Adrian Gonzales led his league with 37 RBIs and finished the season just shy of a .600 batting average. But for Adrian, it gets even better. Earlier this month, he was selected as the Number One pick in the nation for the Major League Amateur Draft.

It is important to acknowledge that the Florida Marlins rewarded Adrian's drive, consistency, and talent, as well as his willingness to dedicate himself through practice and hard work, which led to his second-to-none selection.

Congratulations, Adrian!

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, because of illness in the family, I was necessarily absent on the following votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No. 410—"yea" on the Neal (MA) amendment;

Rollcall No. 411—"yea" on the motion to recommit;

Rollcall No. 412—"yea" on final passage of H.R. 1102;

Rollcall No. 413—"yea" on adoption of the conference report accompanying H.R. 4576;

Rollcall No. 414—"yea" on final passage of H.R. 4118;

Rollcall No. 415—"yea" on motion to instruct conferees to the bill H.R. 4577;

Rollcall No. 416—"yea" on final passage of H.R. 2634.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4811) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, today, I cosponsored an amendment to withdraw the global "gag" language from the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. The language denies U.S. family planning funding to any overseas organization that uses its own non-U.S. funds to provide abortion services. The family planning dollars appropriated in this bill are critically important to the prevention of maternal and child deaths and the continued spread of STDs. Congress should not make the allocation of this life saving funding contingent on how a foreign organization chooses to spend its own dollars.

### CONTRACT OR REGULATIONS

### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year when millions of homeowners take the plunge and hire a contractor to fix the roof or add a deck or make any one of dozens of important—but costly—home improvements.

Now, if you're like most people, before hiring a contractor you want to make sure that you're dealing with a reputable firm.

For instance, you wouldn't want to hire a company with a record for leaving trash in people's yards. You wouldn't want to hire a company known for breaking the law. That's just common sense.

Well, that's what the President's proposed contractor regulations are, too: common sense.

The regulations say that, before the federal government awards a contract, we ought to consider a company's record. It says we ought to look at how responsible a firm has been before they get one nickel in taxpayer money. It says America's government ought to be as careful spending money as America's families are.

Now, I call that being a smart consumer.

That's different from the way things are now.

As it stands today, if the government has to sue a contractor, taxpayers can be forced to pay the company's lawyer bill—even if the company loses.

And it doesn't stop there.

Under current law, it's okay for a contractor to charge Uncle Sam for the costs of fighting to keep their workers from organizing a union.

As incredible as it seems, that's something that actually happens today.

Should any contractor be worried about this measure?

Not the reputable ones who follow the law.

Today we can send a powerful message. The message is that, from here on in, when it comes to spending tax dollars, the United States government is going to be one tough customer.

LET'S REQUEST THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION TO STUDY HOW HIGH DRUG PRICES HURT THE U.S. ECONOMY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee recently wrote to the U.S. International Trade Commission requesting a section 332 study relating to the pricing of prescription drugs by certain U.S. trading partners. The questions asked—if one reads between the lines—seem to be designed by the pharmaceutical lobby to study whether countries that control drug prices are being unfair to the drug companies; whether such price controls have caused U.S. prescription medication prices to be higher than they would otherwise have been. Implicit in the phrasing of the questions, is the assumption that other countries should be paying more.

Other sources of information suggest another approach. Perhaps Americans should be paying less.

The pharmaceutical industry is in an enviable financial position. Drug firms enjoy, on average, three times the profitability (28 percent) of the other 36 industry groups in the Fortune 500. While maintaining the present level of research and development, they were able to invest, last year, about \$14 billion in direct-to-consumer advertising, public relations, lobbying and promotion to doctors. Taxpayers paid more than 30 percent of the costs of R&D through government grants, in addition to the millions in benefits from the government from R&D tax credits. The industry reaps huge benefits, while poor Americans choose between needed medications and paying the rent or for food; or they cut prescriptions in half to try and prolong their pharmaceutical supplies.

The U.S. spends far more than any other country on health care (14 percent of GDP) yet it ranks 37th in the world in the quality of health systems; we rank in the lowest 25 percent of industrialized nation's in life-expectancy and infant mortality. Our system is inefficient and wasteful. American health care has an over-emphasis on state-of-the-art cure instead of preventive care; relatively, we are overwhelmed by MRIs, CAT scanners and high priced drugs. Why have drug costs increased at more than twice the general inflation rate, leading to prescription drug spending growing at twice the rate of all other health expenditures, accounting for 10 percent of total health expenditures?

Perhaps, the chairman's requested study could be extended to include the increased productivity our economy might enjoy if drug prices were lower and the resources used instead on repairing the country's infrastructure, on education or even to lower taxes. How

does the high cost of health care impact our trade balance? How much of the "extra" cost of an American car is attributable to the inflated cost of providing health care to workers, driven by such factors as rapidly rising pharmaceutical prices?

We may be able to coerce our trading partners into allowing prices to be raised for their citizens. However, I doubt that Americans will be overjoyed to discover that the efforts of the International Trade Commission resulted in poor Mexicans being deprived of their life-saving medications, to further enrich the pharmaceutical industry (which will not be passed on to American consumers, in any case). The answer is obvious, we should be concentrating not on forcing others to pay more, but on convincing the prescription drug manufacturers to be a little less aggressive in maximizing profits here at home.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FLEMINGTON AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY #159

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of the Flemington American Legion auxiliary #159. This organization has continually made lasting contributions to its local communities through hard work and dedication to those in need.

For nearly fifteen years, its members have canvassed the Flemington Area for needy families during the holiday season. Last December, they raised enough money to shop for sixty families with over one hundred children. Four "Santas" personally presented each family with two large boxes of food, toys, games and clothing for the children.

This past January, the organization made another demonstration of its commitment to the community during times of crisis. On January 22, a gas explosion badly injured and burned a fire chief and police patrolman after they responded to a 911 call, resulting in their lengthy hospitalization. In response, the organization hosted a benefit spaghetti dinner. With a massive volunteer effort, members worked as cooks, dishwashers, and parking attendants. Contributing both time and money, the group served over 800 dinners, raising enough funds to present the two men checks of \$5,000 each when they were finally discharged from the hospital.

As extraordinary as this effort was, it was just one of many times that the American Legion Auxiliary #159 has worked on behalf of those in need. Throughout the years, the American Legion Auxiliary #159 has donated money to Special Olympics, Childrens Miracle Network, Cancer Research, March of Dimes, Red Cross, Salvation Army and numerous other local charities. Working with its "Legion Family" that includes the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion Post #159, it has continually demonstrated its dedication to the community.

The American Legion Auxiliary #159 is a great asset to both Central New Jersey and our nation. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing its dedication to community service and Central New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE DONALD O'QUINN

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2000*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life and career of Mr. George Donald O'Quinn. Two weeks ago, Mr. O'Quinn retired as Principal of Boone Trail Elementary School after 38 years of committed and dedicated service. Mr. O'Quinn has never asked for a medal or a monument; he has only hoped for the success of his students, his school, and his community. It is fitting then that today we honor the accomplishments of this humble public servant.

Mr. O'Quinn was born in 1937 and raised in the community he so proudly served. In fact, he attended the same school that he would later capably lead for so many years. After earning his Bachelors of Science degree in Agriculture from North Carolina State University in 1961, Mr. O'Quinn began teaching at Coats High School, in Dunn, NC. Over the next five years, he taught at Lillington High School and worked at Southern National Bank as that institution's vice president. Fortunately for the people of Lillington, Mr. O'Quinn returned to the classroom in 1972. After four years of teaching Vocational Education at Boone Trail, he was named Principal, a position he would hold for the next 27 years.

It is also important to note that Mr. O'Quinn was engaged in the affairs of his community. He served and held leadership positions in numerous organizations, including the Harnett County Community Development Association, the North Carolina Farm Bureau, the Boone Trail and National Ruritan Club, and the Lillington Jaycees. Mr. O'Quinn also served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Anitoch Baptist Church. On top of his community activities, he was also able to raise a beautiful family with the able assistance of his wife Elaine.

Mr. Speaker, Donald O'Quinn's love for his community, his school, the children he mentored, and his family is truly remarkable. Tonight I praise him for nurturing so many children, embodying the spirit of his community, and sharing his gifts with us all.

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS "JOCKO" HENDERSON

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2000*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Douglas "Jocko" Henderson, who passed away July 15, 2000. Douglas "Jocko" Henderson was an innovative radio pioneer whose contribution to the industry is legendary. One of the first African American disc jockeys in Philadelphia, "Jocko" was known for his smooth rhyming rap before rap had a name.

From 1952 to 1974, Jocko hosted his "Rocketship" music program on radio stations WHAT and WDAS. He played the popular records of the day but introduced them with his silver-voiced rhyming style that other disc